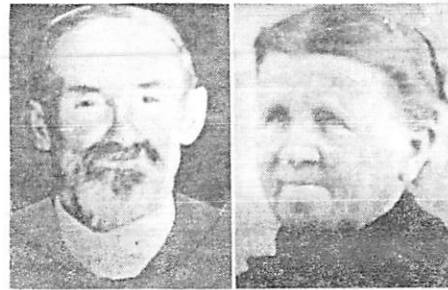


WILLIAM SAMUEL BETHERS AND PHEBE HANNAH McMILLAN

(1862-1874 Heber Pioneer)



William Samuel Bethers was born to Zadock Stergeous and Sarah Collins Bethers on May 18, 1843, in Quincy, Adams County, Illinois. The family was acquainted with Joseph Smith.

When three years of age, he with his parents and family were with the 50-wagon train of Captain Joseph Outhouse in 1852, on their way to Utah. They settled in Provo on September 22, 1852. The mother and children were ill with measles while crossing the plains.

After developing a small farm at Provo, the father returned to Council Bluffs, leaving the mother and boys to care for the farm and endure pioneer hardships and the grasshopper plague. Later he returned and took his wife and sons back to Iowa.

When men were being recruited for the Civil War, Billie Bethers took volunteers to St. Joseph, Missouri, but Billie didn't enlist. He returned to Utah with his brother Mahlon, who went on to Nevada, while Billie came to Heber to live with his sister, Nancy Smith, and her husband, Ephraim Smith.

Billie served in the Indian wars and was a Blackhawk war veteran.

As a young man, he freighted East with supplies, first with ox teams, then horses, bringing immigrants West. On one of these trips he saw a young girl, Phebe Hannah McMillan, camped with her family near Ft. Bridger. She was the oldest child of Daniel and Janett Davis McMillan and was born at Liverpool, England. Her parents were staunch Catholics until hearing the LDS gospel. Phebe and her sister, Mary Ellen, had come with their parents, in 1863, in the old packet ship "Cynosure," with the 125th company, organized by George Q. Cannon. After six long weeks of rough voyage, they arrived at New York City on October 4, 1863. Phebe walked all but one-half day of the distance to Utah.

At Ft. Bridger, too, she noticed Billie Bethers and both seemed to know they were meant for each other. They didn't become well acquainted till quite awhile later. Phebe became his wife on September 14, 1866.

They lived at Wanship and Heber while Billie worked on the railroad coming into Utah. In the spring of 1874, Billie took up a homestead near the mouth of Daniel Canyon and together they developed a fine farm, building three homes—first, a dirt-roof cabin, then a frame home, and finally a two-story brick home. He worked with Hiram Oaks in surveying a canal to bring water from Strawberry Valley to the farms of the settlers along Daniel Creek.

One winter he, with John Jordan and John Bethers, rescued a group of 25 people from the East, who were trying to cross Strawberry Valley in the deep winter snows and bitter cold. He and other families on the creek took care of these people until their wagons could be brought out in the spring and they could be on their way.

Billie purchased a grain binder, a horse-power and then a steam-power thresher, with which he and his sons did much custom work.

He was supervisor of the Daniel Canyon road sixteen years, when all such work was done with picks, shovels, teams, scrapers and wagons. He served as trustee and treasurer of the school board in the early history of Daniel, and on the jury when the county seat was in Provo.

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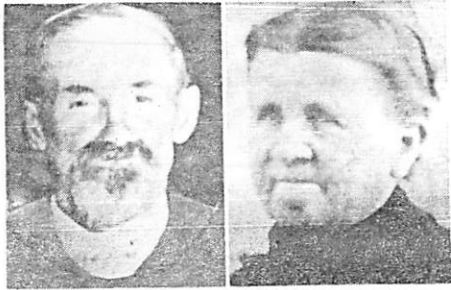
Wards were combined. He always was a faithful worker in Church organizations. He died October 7, 1926, at the age of 83.

Phebe always worked in the Church auxiliaries in Liverpool and in Utah. She was a kindly and generous person and taught her children to always be honorable and true to their faith. He had the gift of healing.

They were the parents of 14 children. Their second child, a boy, died when a year old. Another baby boy lived only one day.

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DANIEL BIOGRAPHIES

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A sister community to Daniel was Buysville, named after Edward Buys, who settled there in 1870. Buys and his wife, Celestia Bromley Buys, were called by leaders of the Church to help build up the Wasatch area. They left their home in Bountiful, Davis County, and moved to Charleston where they built the first shingle roofed house in that community.

Later they moved east to Big Hollow which soon became known as Buysville. As other families came to the area a meeting house and school room was built. The Buysville Branch of the Church was then formed as part of the Charleston ward.

Because all of the early settlers in Daniel and Buysville were Latter-day Saints, it was natural that community activities would center around the Church. Dancing was considered the most popular activity, though sports events were not neglected. No matter how hard the day's work had been the people still found refreshment in dancing parties, even if they had to walk from Daniel to Buysville to join in the fun.

Buysville was a favorite spot for dancing because of the fiddling prowess of Ed Buys, the first settler. Picnic dances were popular social events and had their moments of hilarity.

At one of the picnic frolics, Tom Murdock was fiddling gaily for the dancing when he gave a yell, "Here, come take care of this pie." The amazed onlookers stared as they saw him jiggling a pie on the toe of his shoe, keeping time with the music.

The surprised baker of the pie mustered only a weak, "Why that's a good pie."

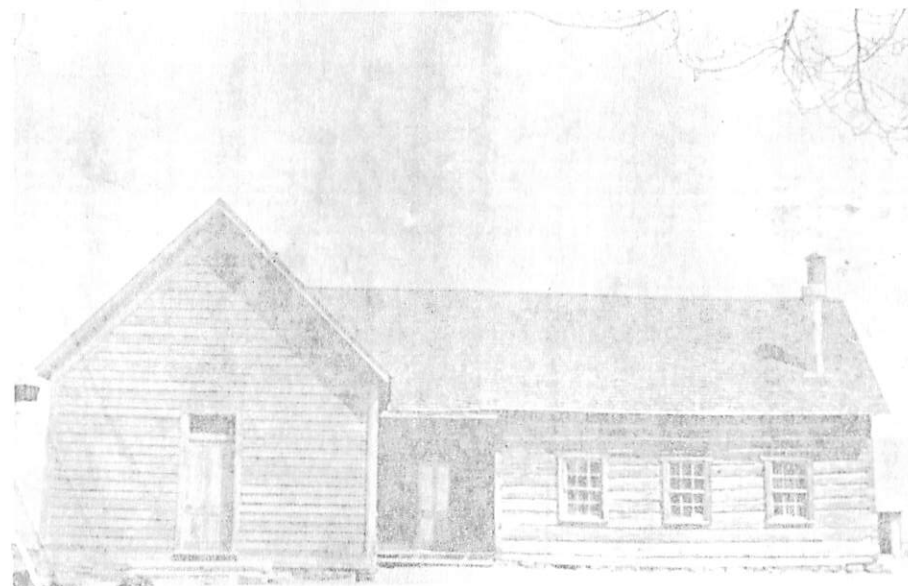
Superintendents of the Young Men's Mutual Improvement Assn. have been: James J. Howe, William S. Bethers, James J. Howe, Joseph F. Swain, Walter Plummer, Dean Bethers, Leonard J. Howe, John M. Thacker, James W. Orgill, Grant Casper, Earl George Jacklin, Kenneth Allred, Ray Kynaston, Dean Hector and Ray Cummings.

Presidents of the Young Ladies and later the Young Women's Mutual Improvement Assn. have been Annie Bell, Margaret Howe, Sarah C. Bethers Price, Rachel I. Orgill, Marie Anderson Erickson, Mary Elizabeth McDonald, Esther Anderson Howe, Josephine Plummer, Emma Clegg, Lacy Swain, Phebe Remund, Ethel Watson, Zella Carlen, Delores McDonald, Stella Gordon, Lola Carlile, Ruby Clegg, Elnora Casper, Isabelle McGuire, Nelda Duke, Elaine Broadhead and Norma Thompson.

Chairmen of the ward genealogical committee work have been Joseph C. McDonald, Thomas J. Orgill, Albert F. Bethers, Orson McGuire, Allen T. Bethers and Lloyd Jacobsen.

Religious Life

Activity in The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints was the mainstay in the lives of those who settled in Wasatch County. Many had come to the area from foreign lands because of their membership in the Church and the desire they had to be with the main body of saints. Though they worked hard in winning the land, they found ample opportunity to meet together and worship the Lord, their God.



The old Daniel Ward meeting house, which served also as a school. This photograph was taken in 1903.

Church buildings were among the first structures erected in the Wasatch area, and the Daniel settlement was no exception as branches of the Church were soon established in Buysville and in Daniels Creek.

The Buysville area was settled about 1870 as an outgrowth of Charleston. The Church history was closely identified with the Charleston Ward until 1896. In the fall of that year, Bishop Nymphus C. Murdock of Charleston appointed William McGhie as presiding elder in the Buysville Branch. Meetings were held in the district school house.

Two years later the branch was organized as the Buysville Ward.